Department of Homeland Security
Daily Open Source
Infrastructure Report
for 12 May 2008

- According to Gannet News Service, analysis of EPA data has found that since 2003, fines totaling $35 million were assessed against 494 of the nation's 4,200 municipal facilities that treat at least a million gallons of sewage daily. Violations included sewage spills that make people sick, threaten local drinking water, and kill aquatic organisms. (See item **17**)

- According to the New York Times, "Operation Cisco Raider" has led to 15 criminal cases involving counterfeit networking products bought in part by military agencies, military contractors and electric power companies in the U.S. Over the two-year operation, 36 search warrants have been executed, resulting in the discovery of 3,500 counterfeit Cisco network components. (See item **21**)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams

Service Industries: Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities

Sustenance and Health: Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare

Federal and State: Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES−ISAC) − [http://www.esisac.com]

1. *May 9, Bloomberg* – (International) **Oil climbs above $126 to record as dollar weakens against euro.** Crude oil rose above $126 a barrel in New York to a record as the dollar weakened against the euro and yen, prompting investors to buy commodities. Crude oil for June delivery rose $1.63, or 1.3 percent, to $125.32 a barrel at 9:58 a.m. on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract surged to a record $126.20 on Friday. Source:
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=ao4jxe5RRaNo&refer=energy

2. *May 9, CNN* – (North Carolina) **Reported twister tears through central North Carolina.** Emergency crews in North Carolina plan to assess damage Friday morning after a reported tornado on Thursday night in the central part of the state. More than 32,000 were without power, officials told the Associated Press.
Source: http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/weather/05/09/northcarolina.tornado/index.html

3. *May 9, Plain Dealer* – (Utah) **Crandall Canyon Mine permit targeted for federal probe.** The chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee wants the Justice Department to investigate whether officials of a mining company willfully misled federal safety authorities about the state of degraded pillars so they could get permission to extract coal under dangerous conditions. Parts of the Crandall Canyon Mine in Utah, which is owned by a subsidiary of Murray Energy Corp., collapsed in August 2007 and left nine dead. A risky plan for retreat mining "never should have been submitted by the mine operator and should never have been approved by the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration [MSHA]," the congressman said Thursday. He said he has referred the matter to the Justice Department for a possible criminal investigation, which says it will review the materials and consider the matter, according to the Deseret News. An MSHA spokesman said his agency is still investigating the root cause of the disaster.
Source:
http://www.cleveland.com/news/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/news/12103220444230.xml
&coll=2

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to Report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *May 9, Associated Press* – (National) **Western states rebuff plan for Italian nuclear waste in Utah.** On Thursday, members of the Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management rejected EnergySolutions Inc.'s plan to ship tons of radioactive waste from Italy for disposal in Utah. The Compact said their rules would need to be changed to allow roughly five or six rail cars of waste a year to be buried there. The group's decision, however, does not mean the waste cannot enter the country. A spokesman for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which is reviewing the import license, doubts that the unanimous vote will kill the application. "They could say we'd still like to bring the material for processing in Tennessee and dispose of it in some other way, presumably exporting the rest of it back to Italy," the spokesman said. The federal public comment period on the license application ends June 10.
Source: http://www.thestate.com/business-wire/story/399836.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *May 9, Mississippi Press* – (National) **Bertholf delivered to Coast Guard.** The U.S. Coast Guard took possession of the first national security cutter, Bertholf, on Thursday, with the 122-man crew now preparing to move aboard, receive training, and test the ship's capabilities. The 418-foot vessel is the first of eight national security cutters planned by the Coast Guard. The Legend-class ship is the first high-endurance, large cutter to be built for the Coast Guard in 40 years and will replace the Hamilton-class, according to a Northrop Grumman vice president. The Bertholf includes a launch and recovery area for two rigid-hull inflatable boats, a flight deck that can accommodate rotary-wing manned and unmanned aircraft, and state-of-the-art command and control systems, Northrop Grumman said in a news release. Its cost has been estimated at $640 million. The Bertholf will be formally commissioned in August. At that time, the ship will be available for emergency situations. A Coast Guard acquisition official said the ship should see a final acceptance in about 12 months and scheduled for missions in about 22 months.
Source:
http://www.gulflive.com/news/mississippipress/index.ssf?/base/news/121032811474330.xml

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *May 8, Reuters* – (National) **US SEC scrutinizing investment bank liquidity.** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is scrutinizing the liquidity of investment banks it supervises and is planning to require the top Wall Street firms to publicly disclose their current liquidity and capital positions, SEC officials said on Wednesday. Attention has been on funding at the biggest U.S. investment banks since March, when Bear Stearns Cos Inc nearly collapsed after a sharp decline in its liquidity. The SEC monitors investment banks Morgan Stanley, Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc, Merrill Lynch & Co Inc, Goldman Sachs Group Inc and Bear Stearns for liquidity and capital levels as part of its consolidated supervised entities (CSE) program to enable the SEC to respond quickly to any financial or operational weakness in the companies. The SEC chairman told reporters after the conference he is not sure how often the CSE firms would have to publicly report such information. Senior lawmakers have called for stricter regulation of investment banks since they were given emergency access to the Federal Reserve's discount borrowing window in March, as the credit crisis deepened.
Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/telecomm/idUSN0756509820080508

7. *May 8, CyberInsecure* – (International) **HSBC Bank lost 159,000 more customer records.** HSBC bank has admitted losing a server containing transaction data on 159,000 Hong Kong-based account holders. It happens just a few weeks after the group admitted they lost a computer disc with details of 370,000 customers of bank's life insurance offices in Southampton, United Kingdom. HSBC has also had all sorts of problems keeping its e-payments system up and running over recent weeks, while back

in March it forgot to renew a digital certificate, leaving customers confronted by a potentially confusing warning. The bank said on Wednesday that the recent incident happened during renovation work at a Kwun Tong district branch on 26 April. Data held on the server included customer names, account numbers, transaction amounts and transaction types, but not PIN codes or online banking login credentials. Copies of the data were held on backup tapes.
Source: http://cyberinsecure.com/hsbc-bank-lost-159000-more-customers-records/

8. *May 8, Cnet News* – (National) **What is your stolen data worth?** McAfee Avert Labs has discovered a price list that criminals use to buy and sell credit card numbers, bank account log-ins, and other consumer data that have been filched from unsuspecting Web surfers. For example, a Washington Mutual Bank account in the U.S. with an available balance of $14,400 is priced at 600 euros ($924), while a Citibank UK account with an available balance of 10,044 pounds is priced at 850 euros ($1,310). There is even a guarantee that if the buyer is unable to log into the account within 24 hours, maybe because the owner of the data canceled the account, the buyer can get a replacement stolen account to use. Criminals can even buy skimmers, fake face-plates for ATM machines that steal credit card data when the card is swiped, and so-called "dump tracks" used to create fake credit cards, the McAfee blog entry says. This follows on news earlier this week from Web security company Finjan of the discovery of a server containing stolen consumer and business data. Finjan said it found a server controlled by hackers that had more than 1.4 gigabytes of data--more than 5,000 log files--stolen from infected PCs. The stolen data included consumer and business e-mails, as well as health care patient data and bank customer data from individuals, financial institutions, law enforcement agencies, and other companies around the world.
Source: http://www.news.com/8301-10784_3-9939862-7.html?tag=newsmap

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Transportation Sector

9. *May 9, St. Louis Post-Dispatch* – (Missouri) **Two guards at Lambert suspended.** Two contract security guards at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport have been suspended in the wake of a security breach Wednesday morning in which a homeless man slipped through a vehicle checkpoint and was later found sleeping on a plane. And a third security guard was fired after an unrelated security lapse the previous night, an airport spokesman said Thursday. Lambert police are also investigating how the man slipped through the checkpoint about 5:30 a.m. before he was found sleeping on an empty regional jet about 6:40 a.m. Lambert officials said guards were checking a vehicle on the entrance side when the man walked through the exit side. Unlike the passenger screening checkpoints — which are staffed by Transportation Security Administration officers — the airfield perimeter security is the responsibility of the airport. The night before the homeless man made it onto the plane, a female passenger left the secure area of Concourse A and immediately turned around to re-enter the area, saying she had forgotten her purse, a Lambert spokesman said. The security guard at the exit, also a Whelan employee, allowed her to re-enter without going through screening, violating security procedures. Airport police found the passenger and conducted a security sweep.

10. *May 8, Associated Press* – (International) **Serious global jet accident rate rose in 2007, IATA says.** Deadly crashes in Brazil, Africa and Southeast Asia last year led to the first global uptick in serious jetliner accidents in a decade, an international aviation trade group said Thursday. However, the overall number of deaths from flying declined, to 692 last year from 855 a year earlier, according to the annual safety report by the International Air Transport Association. Passenger traffic was up 6 percent during the same period, the Geneva-based organization said. The rise in this so-called hull-loss rate — to 0.75 accidents out of a million flights in 2007, from 0.65 in 2006 — is the first increase in the serious accident rate since 1998, when it stood at 1.4 crashes per million flights. IATA counted a total of 100 serious airline accidents in 2007, up from 77 a year earlier. Of those, 57 involved jets, and 43 involved smaller and much less common turboprops. Africa remained the most dangerous region in which to fly, with 4.09 accidents per million flights — down modestly from the previous year. North America, Europe, and the countries of the former Soviet Union had the lowest accident rates last year. Nearly half of all jet accidents occurred on landing, such as the One-Two-Go Airlines MD-82 that skidded off the runway in September in Thailand, killing 88.
Source:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap_travel/20080508/ap_tr_ge/travel_brief_air_safety;_ylt=ApR
8dY1OliBs3PfZrbInIR6s0NUE

11. *May 8, Washington Technology* – (National) **House bill aims to improve airport biometrics.** The Homeland Security Department (DHS) would be required to consult with industry executives on biometric identification for airport security under newly proposed legislation. The bill, which was introduced May 7, came less than a week after the Transportation Security Administration was to begin tests to screen airport employees at selected airports. The tests include biometric identification of employees at two airports. Several airport authorities also recently formed a consortium to make plans for biometric ID cards. The bill requires that: TSA study existing and proposed industry programs for biometric screening at airports; TSA study how airports might transition to biometric systems; TSA submit to Congress a report on best practices for issuing biometric credentials for airport workers; and the DHS secretary create a working group with industry stakeholders for consultation on biometric identification.
Source: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1_1/32762-1.html

12. *May 8, WDIB 4 Detroit* – (Michigan) **Grenade detonated; Road reopens.** Firefighters were called to the intersection of Livernois Avenue and Wagner Road around 9 a.m. on Thursday after someone reported finding a grenade in the middle of the road. There were no evacuations ordered, but firefighters kept passers-by back 500 feet. Livernois Avenue near Wagner was closed in both directions for most of the morning. The bomb squad was called to the area and took the grenade to Patton Park in southwest Detroit to detonate it. There were no injuries. The roads have reopened.
Source: http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/16198319/detail.html

Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *May 8, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Spokane post office evacuated.** The downtown Post Office in Spokane, Washington, was evacuated for three hours before authorities determined a substance found in a threatening letter was ground up antacid. An inmate in Florida may face charges for mailing the threatening, bloodstained letter with a white substance wrapped in a piece of tissue paper. The incident began about 9:30 a.m. Thursday when a federal employee opened the letter and discovered the note and substance. A hazardous materials team determined the substance was a compound used in antacids, but tests for contaminants were pending. The Florida inmate is in prison on state charges for sending similar letters.
Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/6420ap_wa_post_office_evacuated.html

Agriculture and Food Sector

14. *May 9, Reuters* – (Hawaii) **Hawaii firm recalls beef due to E. coli: USDA.** The U.S. Agriculture Department said Thursday that Palama Holdings is voluntarily recalling about 68,670 pounds of ground beef products because they may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7. USDA said the products were produced April 9 – 21, 2008. The beef was distributed to retail, food service establishments, and commissaries in Hawaii. No illnesses have been reported.
Source:
http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN0945648920080509?sp=true

15. *May 9, USAgNet* – (Michigan) **Pseudorabies identified in swine on a Michigan game ranch.** The Michigan Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Geagley Laboratory has confirmed pseudorabies virus (PRV) infection in 19 sport swine on a privately owned cervid facility in Saginaw County. Pseudorabies is a highly contagious viral disease of swine that causes newborn piglets to die. Rarely, the disease can cause sudden death in cats and dogs and can affect cattle, sheep, and deer. "We must protect Michigan's $230 million swine industry," said the MDA's director. "Michigan achieved PRV-free status in 2000, and the ability of this disease to be spread by feral hogs to other animals could be a risk to the swine industry." Effective immediately, MDA is banning the importation of swine intended for: breeding on game ranches, for supply to game ranches, or facilities using swine for sport, hunting, or shooting. Any farms that sold to, or received live swine from this facility will be quarantined and tested. Additionally, all farms and ranches with commercial or sport swine in a five-mile radius around the PRV positive ranch will be quarantined and the swine tested for PRV. Michigan's PRV-free status for the commercial swine industry should remain intact as long as commercial operations remain PRV-free.
Source: http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=1116&yr=2008

16. *May 8, Reuters* – (National) **Bush will veto U.S. farm bill.** House and Senate

negotiators agreed on a $285 billion farm bill on Wednesday that puts more money into public feeding programs and denies one crop subsidy program to the wealthiest Americans. The compromise bill could be sent to the White House by the middle of next week. The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary said on Thursday that the President will veto the farm bill agreement reached by law makers in Congress this week. The administration said the farm bill was too costly and failed to deliver the reforms that the administration was seeking.
Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSWBT00896320080508

Water Sector

17. *May 8, Gannett News Service* – (National) **Aging systems releasing sewage into rivers, streams.** America's aging sewer systems continue to dump human waste into rivers and streams, despite years of fines and penalties targeting publicly owned agencies responsible for sewage overflows. The analysis of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) data found that since 2003, hundreds of municipal sewer authorities have been fined for violations, including spills that make people sick, threaten local drinking water, and kill aquatic animals and plants. Local governments across the U.S. plan to spend billions modernizing failing wastewater systems over the next ten to 20 years, EPA, state, and local sewer authority officials said. The analysis found that at least one-third of the nation's large, publicly owned sewage treatment systems were the subject of formal enforcement actions by the EPA or state regulators for sewage spills or other violations. Those enforcement actions included fines as well as orders to fix problems or expand treatment capacity. Fines totaling $35 million were assessed against 494 of the nation's 4,200 municipal facilities that treat at least one million gallons of sewage daily, the analysis shows. In addition, some states have levied penalties that are not included in the EPA data. Cities with the largest fines included San Diego, New York, and Los Angeles. An EPA 2004 report to Congress estimated that 850 billion gallons of storm water mixed with raw sewage pour into U.S. waters every year from older, combined sewer systems that were designed to overflow in wet weather. These combined systems, built by cities in the 19th and early 20th centuries, are now considered antiquated and a threat to public health and the environment, according to the EPA and environmental groups. An additional three billion to ten billion gallons of raw sewage spill accidentally every year from systems designed to carry only sewage, according to the 2004 report. Causes of these spills include improper connections, clogs from debris, construction accidents, and cracks in aging pipes. The EPA estimates that as many as 5,500 people get sick every year from direct exposure to sewer overflows near beaches.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-05-07-sewers-main_N.htm

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

18. *May 9, New York Times* – (Nevada) **77 new cases of hepatitis identified in Las Vegas.** Nevada health officials said Thursday that they had identified 77 new cases of hepatitis

C among patients treated at a Las Vegas endoscopy practice, in one of the country's largest outbreaks of the liver disease. The officials had previously identified seven cases of the disease linked to the gastroenterology practice, and a single case in one of the practice's sister clinics. The infections were caused, they said, by the reuse of anesthesia syringes among multiple patients. The practice had not received a full inspection since 2001, although state policies dictate that ambulatory surgical centers be reviewed every three years. The licensing agency has blamed the delay on insufficient financing for inspectors. "This is a very large outbreak and a very serious illness," said the senior epidemiologist for the Southern Nevada Health District. The outbreak, which began in February, has attracted the attention of federal health officials and law enforcement authorities, including the Nevada attorney general and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
Source:
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/09/us/09vegas.html?_r=1&ref=us&oref=slogin

19. *May 9, Reuters* – (Nevada) **Bird flu resurfaces in West Bengal.** Veterinary workers were getting ready to cull thousands of backyard poultry to contain an outbreak of bird flu in West Bengal, which has struggled to control the virus since January. West Bengal briefly contained the outbreak by culling more than four million birds in 14 of its 19 districts, but the virus has intermittently resurfaced. The World Health Organization has described the situation in West Bengal as India's worst bird flu outbreak in poultry. Officials in West Bengal said they were looking for people with flu-like symptoms. India has so far not reported any human infections, but experts fear the H5N1 strain could mutate into a form easily transmitted between people, leading to a pandemic.
Source: http://in.reuters.com/article/topNews/idININdia-33494920080509?sp=true

20. *May 9, Associated Press* – (National) **Group urges F.D.A. to take contraceptive off market.** Public Citizen, a consumer advocacy group, petitioned the government Thursday to pull Ortho-Evra, a birth control patch off the market, calling it far riskier than the pill. Warnings about the weekly patch have escalated since a 2005 investigation by the Associated Press found that users had higher rates of life-threatening blood clots than did women who took birth control pills. Blood clots are a rare side effect for estrogen-related products. Some studies of the risk suggest that patch users have twice the risk of clots in the legs and lungs as do women who swallow the pill because patients absorb up to 60 percent more estrogen with the patch. The Food and Drug Administration updated the patch's label in 2005, 2006, and earlier this year with clot warnings. The drug agency said it had not had an opportunity to review the petition.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/09/washington/09patch.html?ref=us

Government Facilities Sector

21. *May 9, New York Times* – (National) **F.B.I. says the military had bogus computer gear.** The sinister specter of an electronic Trojan horse, lurking in the circuitry of a computer or a network router and allowing attackers clandestine access or control, was raised again recently by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Pentagon.

The new law enforcement and national security concerns were prompted by Operation Cisco Raider, which has led to 15 criminal cases involving counterfeit products bought in part by military agencies, military contractors, and electric power companies in the U.S. The FBI is still not certain whether the ring's actions were for profit or part of a state-sponsored intelligence effort. The potential threat includes the remote jamming of supposedly secure computer networks and gaining access to supposedly highly secure systems. A Cisco spokesman said that the company had investigated the counterfeit gear seized by law enforcement agencies and had not found any secret back door. Despite Cisco's reassurance, a number of industry executives and technologists said that the threat of secretly added circuitry intended to subvert computer and network gear is real. The potential threat of secret hardware-based backdoors or kill switches has been discussed for several decades. For example, the issue came up during the 1980s with a Swiss cryptography company, Crypto, which has been under suspicion of having installed back doors in its systems to give the National Security Agency access to encoded messages. The issue was raised again during the first Iraq war and more recently in the Israeli bombing of a suspected Syrian nuclear plant. In both cases, there has been speculation that booby-trapped antiaircraft equipment had been remotely turned off.
Source:
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/09/technology/09cisco.html?scp=1&sq=markoff+cisco&st=nyt

22. *May 8, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Pipe bomb removed from Oakville school.** A State Patrol bomb squad destroyed what appeared to be a pipe bomb found on the grounds of a school in Oakville, Washington. The undersheriff says the capped copper pipe was found at 9:00 Thursday by a deputy investigating a reported burglary. The bomb squad took the pipe to a nearby quarry where it was destroyed.
Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/6420ap_wa_bomb_scare.html

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Emergency Services Sector

23. *May 9, Anchorage Daily News* – (Alaska) **Emergency services scores low in audit.** An outside audit of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Department of Emergency Services gave a damning view of operations there and said a lack of direction has left the borough open to risk. "The borough is at great risk, not only operationally but from a liability perspective, in that the Department of Emergency Services appears to be poorly organized and managed, and there is a general lack of monitoring of department administration and corporate oversight," the audit states. Public health and safety are not at risk because of training and practices at the Emergency Services Department, the Borough Manager claimed on Thursday. According to the audit, job descriptions are six years and more out of date. Updates are in the works, but auditors found no evidence of work being done. In one instance, auditors reported that an emergency medical services training plan was cobbled together, just to meet their request.
Source: http://www.adn.com/matsu/story/400875.html

24. *May 9, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **City looks at 911 system.** Baltimore's public ambulance service went out on more than 150,000 calls last year. About 2,000 of those calls were from the same 91 people. Officials fear the high frequency of calls from a small number of people means this group is using 911 because they lack transportation or insurance. On Thursday, the city announced Operation Care, a program to cut down on the repeat calls and provide the callers with better health care. In March, Washington began a similar program. The District of Columbia health department identified 30 people who made a total of 2,400 calls. The top dialer phoned in 243 times. In response, the D.C. government set up a program known as Street Calls. City workers regularly visit the callers to educate them about 911, and to help them with medical issues. Source: http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/baltimore_city/bal-md.ci.ambulance09may09,0,7784194.story

25. *May 9, Leaf-Chronicle* – (Kentucky) **Fort Campbell drills focus on terrorist attack response.** Twenty-five casualties were portrayed Thursday during a mock bomb attack at Fort Campbell. The event served as an annual daylong training exercise for emergency personnel at the military installation. The exercise involved a vehicle-borne, improvised explosive device which "detonated" next to a building on post, immediately causing at least two "deaths" and dozens of injuries to exercise participants. Overall reviews of the performance were rather high. Later Thursday, another mock exercise was conducted, this time a hostage situation. Emergency personnel were scheduled to hold a meeting Friday morning to review the exercise and go over aspects that were successful and those that were not successful. Source: http://www.theleafchronicle.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080509/NEWS01/805090369/1002/news01

26. *May 8, Network World* – (National) **AT&T demos disaster preparedness.** AT&T was in Chicago Thursday demonstrating to hundreds of its corporate clients how it responds to natural disasters. AT&T conducts four disaster-recovery exercises a year around the U.S. to test its ability to respond to hurricanes, wildfires, and man-made disasters, such as terrorist attacks. In its latest exercise, AT&T pretended its central office switch in downtown Chicago was unavailable, so it set up mobile units at Soldier Field. They included 170 technology trailers, 130 support vehicles, and more than 400 generators. Since Hurricane Katrina hit in August 2005, AT&T has increased its disaster-recovery systems and procedures by integrating the disaster-response efforts of all the communications companies it owns, including SBC, Bell South, and Cingular, into one organization. AT&T has also doubled the size of its hazardous-materials team and added cell-on-light-trucks to its fleet of emergency-communications trailers since Katrina. Source: http://www.networkworld.com/news/2008/050808-att-disaster-preparedness.html?fsrc=rss-security

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Information Technology

27. *May 9, CNN* – (International) **Fighting the agents of organized cybercrime.** Today's

hackers are profit-driven criminals, often involved in organized rings. "Hacking has escalated from a destructive nature to financial gain through phishing, targeting people for bank account details, and siphoning accounts from there," says a security researcher at Fortinet. "It's a very sophisticated ecosystem, with organizations and services for hire," he continues. "There's a lot of money floating around, a lot of people involved. Once the infrastructure and networks are in place, you start building that foundation, which can be further leveraged and taken to next level: denial of services, cyber warfare, espionage." While online communities in particular continue to grow through friendly social networking sites, underground cybercrime syndicates continue to thrive on these on-screen relationships based on sharing and trust. Topping the most-wanted list, an organization dubbed Rock Phish is reputedly responsible for more than half of all phishing sites worldwide. In addition to its proven technical prowess, part of its success can be attributed to baited hooks written in perfect English – as well as French, German and Dutch – with always impeccable counterfeit design of brand logos and styles. According to the Javelin Strategy & Research 2008 Identity Fraud Survey Report, identity fraud and theft totaled $51 billion in the U.S. over the past year, after peaking at $58 billion in 2006. From one analyst's perspective, the next big threat is targeted attacks on high-level executives at corporations with well-padded bank accounts. Meanwhile, the technical arms race between cyber-criminals and security professionals has escalated. "Bot-herders and other 'spam kings' are difficult to track, especially in so many different jurisdictions and areas around world, with no enforced policies against them," one analyst observed.
Source: http://www.cnn.com/2008/TECH/05/08/digitalbiz.cybercrime

28. *May 9, IDG News Service* – (National) **XP SP3 cripples some PCs with endless reboots.** Installing Windows XP Service Pack 3 sends some PCs into an endless series of reboots, according to posts to a Microsoft support forum. A former program manager for security policy at Microsoft and a prominent Windows blogger has worked with users to tentatively identify the problem as involving only machines using processors from Advanced Micro Devices. Messages from frustrated users began accumulating on the XP SP3 support newsgroup Wednesday, just a day after Microsoft released the update. "I just installed Windows XP SP3 and after completing the processes and when the system reboots, the system cannot proceed to load the Windows," said a user labeled as "Olin" in a message that kicked off a long thread. "It just displays the flash screen of Windows then after it reboots again." Most users who left messages on the forum said that they were unable to boot into Windows Safe mode – a last-ditch way to sidestep the normal boot process for troubleshooting purposes – or revert to a previously saved System Restore point. According to the blogger, there appear to be two separate issues. He also spelled out workarounds for both problems on his blog. The HP issue can be solved by disabling the intelppm.sys driver, while the second fix requires the user to plug in a USB flash drive before booting. Microsoft was not immediately available for comment early Friday, but someone identified as a Microsoft employee on the support forum had asked users to e-mail him information such as the PC's system configuration, tell him whether they were able to enter Safe mode, and submit event viewer logs.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/08/05/09/XP-SP3-cripples-some-PCs-with-endless-reboots_1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

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Communications Sector

29. *May 8, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **North Carolina TV market to make early switch to digital TV.** Any glitches in the nationwide switch to digital television will be felt first in Wilmington, N.C. The Federal Communications Commission on Thursday formally announced that the North Carolina TV market on would be the first to switch from analog signals to an all-digital format. It said five local stations will begin broadcasting only digital signals beginning at noon on September 8 – five months ahead of the much-advertised February 17 nationwide flip. "This experience will help us to spot issues that we need to address elsewhere in the country before next February," the FCC chairman said in a release Thursday. The agency said Wilmington is one of "only a limited number of potential test markets," but did not say how many others or if they would also make the early switch. Wilmington, which volunteered for the switch, was one of eight communities with technology in place to go all digital, an agency spokesman said. Wilmington is the 135th ranked TV market in the nation, said a spokesman for the Consumer Electronics Association, a trade group for electronics manufacturers and retailers. About 93 percent of Wilmington's households subscribe to cable or satellite TV, while only 7 percent – or about 12,600 households – still watch over-the-air programming. While about half of the nation's households own a digital set, it's unclear how many of those 12,600 over-the-air households in Wilmington do. But the spokesman said getting the word out will be easy to do in a small market.
Source: http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/564/story/443863.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to Report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to Report

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Dams Sector

30. *May 8, Associated Press* – (National) **Corps uncertain about condition of nation's levees.** While the Army Corps of Engineers has recently completed an inventory of levees it maintains or helps fund, it has no such inventory of thousands of private levees – no idea how many there are, where they sit, what they protect, or how sturdy they are. Congress has authorized an inventory of private levees, but so far has not provided any money for the project. Many levees are old, with rusting infrastructure and built to protect against relatively common floods. The majority of privately owned levees are "farm" levees keeping water out of fields, but some protect populated areas, industry, and business.
Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-il-riverlevees,0,7325201.story

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